BETTY BROWN,

The St. GILES's ORANGE GIRL:

WITH SOME ACCOUNT OF

Mrs. SPONGE, the MONEY-LENDER.



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BETTY BROWN, &c.

was born nobody knows where, and d nobody knows how. No girl in all streets of London could drive a barmore nimbly, avoid pushing against lengers more dextrously, or cry her ne China Oranges" in a shriller e. But then she could neither sow, spin, nor knit, nor wash, nor iron, read, nor spell. Betty had not been ys in so good a situation as that in the we now describe her. She came the world before so many good gen-

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themfelves so kindly that the poor might have a little learning. There was no charitable Society then, as there is now, to pick up poor friendless children in the streets, and put them into a good house, and give them meat, and drink and lodging, and learning, and teach them to get their bread in an honest way into the bargain. Whereas, this now is often the case in London, blessed be God for all his mercies.

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The longest thing that Betty can remember is, that she used to crawl us out of a night cellar, stroll about the streets, and pick cinders from the sound streets. Among the ashes she sometimes sound some ragged gauze and dirty ribbons; with these she used dizen herself out, and join the ment bands on the first of may. This wonot however quite fair, as she did a lawfully belong either to the semi dancers who soot it gaily round the gland, or to the sooty tribe, who, on the happy holiday, forget their whole year

toil; she often, however, got a few scraps, by appearing to belong to both parties.

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Betty was not an idle girl; fhe always put herfelf in the way of doing fomething. She would run of errands for the footmen, or fweep the door for the maid of any house where she was known; she would run and fetch some porter, and never was once known either to fip a drop or steal the pot. Her quickness and fidelity in doing little jobs, got her into favour with a lazy cook maid, who was too apt to give away her master's cold meat and beer, not to those who were most in want, but to those who waited upon her, and did the little things which she ought to have done herfelf.

The cook, who found Betty a dextrous girl, foon employed her to fell ends of candles, pieces of meat and cheefe, and lumps of butter or any thing elfe she could crib from the house. These were all carried to her friend Mrs.

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Sponge, who kept a little shop, and a kind of eating-house for poor working people, not far from the Seven Dials, She also bought as well as fold many kinds of fecond hand things, and was not fcrupulous to know whether what the bought was honeftly come by, provided fhe could get it for a fixth part of what it was worth. But if the owner prefumed to ask for it's real value, she had sudden qualms of conscience, sufpected the things were stolen, and gave herself airs of honesty, which often took in poor filly people, and gave her a fort of half reputation among the needy and the ignorant whose friend she pretended to be.

To this artful woman Betty carried the cooks pilferings, and as Mrs. Sponge would give no great price for these in money, the cook was willing, to receive payment for her eatables in Mrs. Sponge's drinkables; for she dealt in all kinds of spirits. I shall only just remark here, that one receiver, like Mrs. Sponge, makes many pilferers,

who are tempted to these petty thieveries, by knowing how easy it is, to distrosfe of them at such iniquitous houses.

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Betty was faithful to both her employrs, which is extraordinary, confidering he greatness of the temptation, and her atter ignorance of good and evil. One lay, she ventured to ask Mrs. Sponge f she could not assist her to get into a nore fettled way of life. She told her, hat when she rose in the morning, she never knew where she should lie at hight, nor was she ever sure of a meal efore hand. Mrs. Sponge asked her what she thought herself fit for. Betty, vith fear and trembling, faid, there vas one trade for which she thought herelf qualified, but she had not the amition to look fo high. It was far above er humble views. This was, to have barrow, and fell fruit, as feveral other f Mrs. Sponge's customers did, whom he had often looked at with envy.

Mrs. Sponge was an artful woman.

Bad as she was, she was always aiming

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at something of a character; this was a great help to her trade. While she watched keenly to make every thing turn to her own profit, she had a falle fawning way of feeming to do all she did out of pity and kindness to the dif. treffed; and she seldom committed an extortion, but she tried to make the per. fon she cheated believe themselves highly obliged to her kindness. By thus pre. tending to be their friend she gained their confidence, and she grew rich her. felf while they thought she was only shewing favour to them. Various were the arts she had of getting rich. The money she got by grinding the poor, fhe fpent in the most luxurious living; and, while the would haggle with her hungry customers for a farthing, she would fpend pounds on the most costly delicacies for herfelf.

Mrs. Sponge, laying afide that haugh ty look and voice, well known to fuch as had the misfortune to be in her debt put on the hypocritical fmile and for tones, which she always assumed when g, e

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he meant to take in her dependents. Betty," faid she, "I am resolved to land your friend. These are sad times obefure. Money is money now. Yet am resolved to put you into a handome way of living. You shall have a arrow, and well furnished too." Bety could not have felt more joy or gra tude, if she had been told that she hould have a coach. "O, Madam," id Betty, " It is impossible. I have ot a penny in the world towards helpgree at," faid Mrs. Sponge; "only you uft do as I bid you. You must pay or, is interest for my money. And you ill of course be glad also to pay so uch every night for a nice hot supper hich I get ready, quite out of kindness, gh ddrink are the best; and my compathe merriest of any house in all so my more favours, and courtefying to hen ground, faid "to be fure, Ma'am,

and thank you a thousand times into the bargain."

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Mrs. Sponge knew what she was a bout. Betty was a lively girl, who had a knack at learning any thing; and for well looking through all her dirt and rags, that there was little doubt she would get custom. A barrow was foon provided, and five shillings put into Betty's hands. Mrs. Sponge kindly condescended to go to shew her how to buy the fruit, for it was a rule with this prudent gentlewoman, and one from which she never departed, that me one should cheat but herfelf.

Betty had never possessed such a sur before. She grudged to lay it out all a once, and was ready to fancy she could live upon the capital. The crown, how ever, was laid out to the best advantage Betty was carefully taught in whi manner to cry her Oranges; and recei ved many useful lessons how to get o the bad with the good, and the stale wit puld the fresh. Mrs. Sponge also lent her

w bad fixpences, for which she orderd her to bring home good ones at ight.—Betty stared. Mrs. Sponge id, "Betty, those who would get moey, must not be too nice about trifles. leep one of these sixpences in your and, and if an ignorant young customrgives you a good fixpence, do you imnediately slip it into your other hand, and give him the bad one, declaring, hat is the very one you have just received, and that you have not another sixence in the world. You must also arn how to treat different forts of customers. To some you may put off with ediately slip it into your other hand, mers. To some you may put off with sety goods which would be quite unleable to others. Never offer bad uit, Betty, to those who know better: ver waste the good on those who may put off with worse; put good Orans at top and mouldy ones under.

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Poor Betty had not a nice conscience, the had never learnt that grand but aple rule of all moral obligation, Never do that to another which you ould not have another do to you."

She fet off with her barrow as proud and as happy as if she had been set up in the finest shop in Covent Garden, Betty had a fort of natural good nature, which made her unwilling to impose, but she had no principle which told her la it was a fin. She had fuch good fuccefs, are that, when night came, she had not an the Orange left. With a light heart, the drove her empty barrow to Mrs. W. Sponge's door. She went in with a merry face, and threw down on the Counter every farthing she had taken are Betty," said Mrs. Sponge, "I have a third right to it all, as it was got by my most ney. But I am too generous to take it. I will therefore only take sixpence for this day's use of my five shillings. This is a most reasonable interest, and I will lend you the same sum to trade with to morrow, and so on; you only paying the me sixpence for the use of it ever eterminate. me fixpence for the use of it ever et night, which will be a great bargain ur to you. You must also pay me my price every night for your supper p and you shall have an excellent lodging in above flairs; fo you fee every thing will ry

now be provided for you in a genteel manner through my generofity."

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Poor Betty's gratitude blinded her to completely that the forgot to calcuate the vast proportion which this generous benefactress was to receive out of her little gains. She thought herfelf a happy creature, and went in to supper with a number of others of her own class. For this supper, and for more the porter and gin than she ought to have en drank, Betty was forced to pay so high, rea that it eat up all the profits of the day, which, added to the daily interest, made Mrs. Sponge a rich return for her for ive shillings.

will Betty was reminded again of the gento. ility of her new fituation, as she crept in p to bed in one of Mrs. Sponge's garets five stories high. This loft, to be gair ure, was fmall, and had no window, ut what it wanted in light was made my p in company, as it had three beds, gin and thrice as many lodgers. Those genwill ry had one night, in a drunken frolic,

broke down the door, which happily in had never been replaced; for, find that time, the lodgers had died much efeldomer of infectious diftempers. For this lodging Betty paid twice as much to her good friend as she would have used to her good friend as she would have used, with great industry and a thriving trade, as poor as on the first day, and do not a bit nearer to faving money enough with the trade, as poor as on the first day, and do not a bit nearer to faving money enough to buy her even a pair of shoes, thougher her feet were nearly on the ground.

One day, as Betty was driving he debarrow through a street near Holborn A a lady from a window called out to he id that she wanted some Oranges. While and the servants went to setch a plate, the lady entered into some talk with Betty Thaving been struck with her honest cour Matenance and civil manner. She quest now oned her as to her way of life, and that profits of her trade—and Betty, when had never been so kindly treated before the by so genteel a person, was very continuicative. She told her little histore as far as she knew it, and dwelt muse so

the pithe generosity of Mrs. Sponge, in eeping her in her house, and trusting and er with so large a capital as five thillings. At first it sounded like a very not good natured thing, but the lady, whose are usband was one of the Justices of the was police, happened to know more in f Mrs. Sponge than was good, which and dher to inquire still further. Betty word, that to be sure, it was not all us lear prosit, for that besides that the igh price of the supper and bed ran way with all she got, she paid sixpence the day for the use of the sive shillings. One And how long have you done this?" he id the Lady, "About a year, Mahil am."

The lady's eyes were at once opened.

My poor girl," faid she, "do you est now that you have already paid for at single five shillings the enormous whom of 71. 10s.? I believe it is the most soft of table five shillings Mrs. Sponge export laid out." "O, no, Madam," said for e girl, "that good gentlewoman does not e same kindness to ten or twelve other.

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poor friendless creatures like me." en "Does she so?" faid the lady; "then le never heard of a better trade than this woman carries on, under the mask of ter charity, at the expence of her poor fel. Inc low creatures."

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" But, Madam," faid Betty, who did not comprehend this lady's arithmetic dri " what can I do? I now contrive to pick and up a morfel of bread without begging or flealing. Mrs. Sponge has been very good to me, and I don't fee how I can mo help myfelf."

"I will tell you," faid the lady, "lend you will follow my advice, you may no he only maintain yourfelf honestly but in jure dependently. Only oblige yourself to hil live hard for a little time, till you have no faved five shillings out of your own be earnings. Give up that expensive sup he per at night, drink only one pint of por po ter, and no gin at all. As foon as you ob have scraped together the five shillings er. carry it back to your false friend, and f g if you are industrious, you will at theore end of the year have faved seven pounds ten shillings. If you can make shift to live now, when you have this heavy interest to pay, judge how things will mend when your capital becomes your own. You will put some cloaths on your back, and by leaving the use of spirits, and the company in which you like them, your health your morals and your condition will mend."

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The lady did not talk thus to fave her an money. She would gladly have given the girl the five shillings; but she hought it was beginning at the wrong and. She wanted to try her. Besides, no he know there was much more pleating in the as well as honour in possessing five thillings of one's own faving than of an mother's giving. Betty promised to we bey. She owned she got no good by the company or the liquor at Mrs. For sponge's. She promised that very night we begin saving the expence of the supposer, and that she would not taste a drop and sign till she had the five shillings betth orehand. The lady, who knew the

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power of good habits, was contented with this, thinking, that if the girl could abstain for a certain time, it would become easy to her. She therefore at present said little about the fin of drink. ing.

In a very few weeks, Betty had faved up the five shillings. She went to carry to back this money with great gratitude to had Mrs. Sponge. This kind friend began cei to abuse her most unmercifully. She stre called her many hard names not fit to " repeat, for having for faken the supper, ger by which she swore she got nothing at but all; but as she had the charity to dress it rest for fuch beggarly wretches, she insisted per they should pay for it, whether they ate ling it or not. She also brought in a heavy reg score for lodging, though Betty had paid ed for it every night, and given notice of to her intending to quit her. By all these her false pretences, she got from her not only her own five shillings but all the little capital with which Betty was going pay to set up for herself. As all was not the sufficient to answer her demands, she de. You d clared she would send her to prison, but while she went to call a Constable, Betty contrived to make off.

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With a light pocket and a heavy heart, he went to the lady and with many tears told her fad ftory. The lady's hufd band, the Justice condescended to listen y to Betty's tale. He faid Mrs. Sponge had long been upon his books as a ren ceiver of stolen goods, Betty's evidence e frengthened his bad opinion of her. This petty system of usury," said the r, gentleman, "may be thought trisling, but it will no longer appear so, if you resteet, that if one of these semale shared pers possesses a capital of seventy shillings, or 31. 10s. with sourteen steady regular customers, she can realize a fixed income of 100 guineas a year. Add to this the influence such a loan gives fe her over these friendless creatures, by compelling them to eat at her house, or to lodge, or buy liquors, or by taking their g pawns, and you will fee the extent of ot the evil. I pity these poor victims: You, Betty, shall point out some of them

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to me. I will endeavour to open their fo eyes on their own bad management. It is one of the greatest acts of kindness to the poor to mend their economy, and to give them right views of laying out their little money to advantage. These ea poor blinded creatures look no farther dy than to be able to pay this heavy inter. a est every night, and to obtain the same she loan on the same hard terms the next tenday. Thus are they kept in poverty and bondage all their lives; but I hope his as many as hear of this will get from on a better plan, and I shall be rea. at dy to help any who are willing to help ftr themselves. This worthy Magistrate we went directly to Mrs. Sponge's with fir proper officers, and he got to the bottom Go of many iniquities. He not only made ju her refund poor Betty's money, but la committed her to prison for receiving br Rolen goods, and various other offences, th which may perhaps make the subject Bo of another history.

Betty was now fet up in trade to her ny hearts content. She had found the be- wi nefit of leaving off spirits, and she re11)

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folved to drink them no more. The first fruits of this resolution was that in Is a fortnight she bought her a new pair of shoes, and as there was now no de-ductions for interest or for gin, her see earnings became considerable. The la-dy made her a present of a gown and a hat, on the easy condition that she she should go to church. She accepted the at terms, at first rather as an act of obedity ence to the lady, than from a fense of higher duty. But she soon began to go et from a better motive. This constant a. attendance at church, joined to the in-Ip structions of the lady, opened a new te world to Betty. She now heard for the th first time that she was a sinner; that God had given a law which was holy, le just, and good, that she had broken this law, had been a swearer, a sabbathing breaker, and had lived without God in
the world. All this was sad news to
Betty; she knew, indeed, that there
were sinners, but she thought they were
only be found in the prisons, or at Botony Bay, or in those mournful carts
which she had sometimes followed with

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her barrow, with the unthinking croud to Tyburn.—She was most struck with the great truths revealed in the Scrip. ture, which were quite new to her. She was defirous of improvement, and faid, the would give up all the profits of her barrow, and go into the hardest ser. vice, rather than live in fin and igno. rance.

"Betty," faid the lady, "I am glad la to fee you so well disposed, and will do Si what I can for you. Your present way ar of life, to be fure, exposes you to much Y danger; but the trade is not unlawful ar in itself, and we may please God in any in itself, and we may please God in any many calling, provided it be not a dishonest arone. In this great town there must be w barrow women to fell fruit. Do you as then, instead of forfaking your business, fet a good example to those in it, and fhew them, that though a dangerous to trade, it need not be a bad one. Till Providence points out some safer way R of getting your bread, let your companions fee, that it is possible to be good even in this. Your trade being carried

d con in the open street, and your fruit the bought in an open shop, you are not so p. much obliged to keep finful company er, as may be thought. Take a garret in an honest house, to which you may go of home in fafety at night. I will give you er. a bed and a few necessaries to furnish o- your room; and I will also give you a a constant Sunday's dinner. barrow woman, bleffed be God and our good ad laws, is as much her own mistress on do Sundays as a Duches: and the Church and the Bible are as much open to her. ch. You may foon learn all that fuch as you are expected to know. A barrow woman may pray as heartily morning and night, and ferve God as acceptably all day, be while she is carrying on her little trade, ou as if she had her whole time to spare.

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To do this well you must mind the us following

ay RULES FOR RETAIL TRADERS.

od Resist every temptation to cheat. Never impose bad goods on false pretences.

Never put off bad money for good. Never use prophane or uncivil lan

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Never fwear your goods cost fo much when you know it is falle. By fo doing you are guilty of two fins in one breath a lie and an oath.

To break these rules, will be you chief temptation. God will mark how you behave under them, and will reward or punish you accordingly. These temptations will be as great to you a higher trials are to higher people; but b you have the same God to look to for strength to resist them as they have You must pray to him to give you this ftrength. You shall attend a Sunday ne School where you will be taught these good things and I will School where you will be taught their or good things, and I will promote you as no you shall be found to deserve.

Poor Betty here burst into tears of goy and gratitude, crying out, "What . shall fuch a poor friendless creature as l be treated fo kindly and learn to read the word of God too? Oh, Madam what a lucky chance brought me to your an.

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oor," "Betty," faid the lady, " what ou have just faid, shews the need you ave of being better taught; there is o fuch thing as chance, and we offend God when we call that luck or chance which is brought about by his will and leafure. None of the events of your ife have happened by chance—but all ave been under the direction of a good and kind Providence. He has permited you to experience want and distress, hat you might acknowledge his hand in our present comfort and prosperity. but hove all, you must bless his goodness in sending you to me, not only because have been of use to you in your world-his restairs, but because he has enabled his y affairs, but because he has enabled he to shew you the danger of your state of in and ignorance, and to put you a way to know his will and to keep is commandments.

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DAN and JANE;

FAITH AND WORKS.

A TALE.

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GOOD Dan and Jane were man and wife. And liv'd a loving kind of life; One point, however, they disputed, And each by turns their mate confuted J 'Twas faith and works—this knotty I'm question They found not eafy of digestion. While Dan for faith alone contended,

Jane equally good works defended. They are not Christians sure, but Turks Vh Who build on faith, and fcoff at works. for Quoth Jane-While eager Dan reply'd In By none but heathens faith's deny'd,' n

I'll tell you wife,' at length quoth Dan, A story of a right good man. patriarch fage of ancient days, man of faith, whom all must praise. his own country he posses'd Vhate'er can make a wife man bleft; is was the flock, the field, the fpring, n short, a little rural king. et, pleas'd he quits his native land, ly faith in the Divine command: sod bade him go, and he, content, Vent forth, not knowing where he went. le trusted in the promise made. and and, undisputing strait obeyed. The heavenly word he did not doubt, ut prov'd his faith by going cut."

Ind the answer'd with some little pride—
thy I've an example on my side;
and the my tale be somewhat longer,
trust you'll find it vastly stronger.
It tell you, Daniel, of a man,
The holiest since the world began,
the holiest since the world began the holiest since the world b

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And more to mark the grace of Heaven This fon by miracle was given; And from this child the word Divine Had promis'd an illustrious line. When lo! at once a voice he hears. Which founds like thunder in his ears God fays-Go facrifice thy fon! -This moment, Lord, it shall be done He goes, and inflantly prepares To flay this child of many prayers. Now here you fee the grand expedience Of works, of actual found obedience. This was not faith, but act and deed, The Lord commands—the child shall bleed.

Thus Abraham acted,' Jenny cried;

· Thus Abraham trusted,' Dan replied.

· Abraham?' quoth Jane, 'why that' my man,

· No, Abraham's him I mean,' fays Dan

"He stands a monument of faith;'-

No, 'tis for works, the Scripture faith.

"Tis for his faith that I defend him;"

'Tis for obedience I commend him."

Thus he-thus she-both warmly feel,

And lose their temper in their zeal

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o quick each other's choice to blame. ev did not fee each meant the fame. t length, good wife,' faid honest Dan, Ve're talking of the felf fame man. e works you praise I own indeed, ow from that faith for which I plead; d Abraham, whom, for faith I quote, one works deserves especial note: s not enough of faith to talk, man of God, with God must walk: nce ir doctrines are at last the same, ey only differ in the name. e faith I fight for is the root, hal e works you value are the fruit.
w shall you know my creed's sincere, alefs in works my faith appear? w shall I know a tree's alive, less I see it bear and thrive? ur works not growing on my root, an ou'd prove they were not genuine fruit. faith produce no works. I fee, th at faith is not a living tree.
us faith and works together grow, separate life they e'er can know: ey're foul and body, hand and heart, nh hat God hath join'd, let no one part.'

HISTORY of RICHARD

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I PASS the days of Richard's youth,
His pranks and idle play;
Nor need I tell the mournful truth
Of wicked deeds each day.

For Richard when to manhood grown,
Was still a wicked wight,
He prov'd a plague to all the town,
And wrong prefer'd to right.

Sometimes he ty'd a neighbour's door, Sometimes their glass he broke; Nor car'd a pin for rich or poor, If he could have his joke. n bad to worse he headlong drove, or man is never still; either daily must improve or fall from bad to ill.

h Richard thus it prov'd, I think;
o plays at first he went; [drink,
n drawn by cards, and dice, and
is nights at taverns spent.

Vent on, nor thought of death, laid upon his bed, and fick, the panted for his breath—

fever rag'd, his boiling blood Vent burning thro' his veins; as then he faw his angry God, and fear increas'd his pains.

p horror smote his throbbing breast, ierce anguish fill'd his soul; bed was thorns—he sound no rest, rom side to side he'd roll.

Death! ghastly death! before him flow And rais'd his dreadful dart; Then first he breath'd a prayer to Go And bow'd his stubborn heart,

If Heav'n would grant him life, held He never more would fin, But ask of God his daily bread And part from cards and gin.

To ev'ry figh—each bitter groan,
Heaven lent a gracious ear,
And fent a guardian angel down,
To footh his pains and fear.

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Rais'd on his feeble limbs again
Dick found his strength return,
He foon was freed from ev'ry pain,
He felt no fever burn.

Some weeks he liv'd a fober way, And feem'd to thank his God. But foon alas he learn'd to stray, And left the heav'nly road. th fmutty Bob, and funny Jack

He flew to cards and gin,

ith them he lik'd his jokes to crack,

With them to follow fin.

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s fober friends wept over Dick And trembled while they faid Alas! poor man! when he was fick "What promifes he made!"

t length, one night at tavern late Mid'st cards and drink and dice, ith smutty Bob and Jack he sate Until the clock struck twice.

Tild roar'd the wind, cold was the night, Each homeward reel'd his way, [light ut when the fun brought morning's None knew where Richard lay!

Ill day his friends fearch'd out alas!
No tidings they could hear
ut when the fecond morn did pass,
They sound him on his bier.

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Down with the stream they faw him and All swell'd, and black with gore. They leap'd into a little boat.

And brought him to the shore.

His fober neighbours gather'd round, They mourn'd with grief fincere, Then plac'd his body in the ground, While tear fell after tear.

Their pious teacher rais'd his voice
And bade all warning take;
For Heaven will blast all wicked joy.
And cut off every rake!

"Though God in mercy may prolong "A wicked wretch's life,

"He will pull down the fierce and strong And blast them in their strife!"

mache Reviewers speaking of the Cheap epository, say,

Concerning the utility of the dethere cannot be two opini-There is certainly no way which the minds of the busier part ankind can be so effectually enlightd with useful knowledge, and imfed with virtuous fentiments, as by easy and free circulation of books papers of various kinds, judiciously oy pted to their comprehension.

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Inited with the Religious pieces we ng I a variety of excellent matter, ex-ited in terms happily adapted to the rpose of the publication. Sentiments piety, benevolence, and integrity, inculcated; industry, sobriety, holy, and the whole train of personal l focial virtues are recommended; d the various fnares by which young ople are drawn into licentious practiare exposed in every way that can supposed to interest the reader.

Analytical Review for 1797. Vol. 25. page 92.

"It owes it's rise to the christian nevolence of the clebrated Han More, who observing with Colle the indecent ballads and other t with which the minds of the per are contaminated, conceived the de of counteracting them, by a cheap fusion of moral and religious pieces dapted to the capacity of every of Many of the stories are entitled to g praise; which is not to be wondered when we are informed that the late! Mason, Mrs. Chapone, Mr. Gil and other names advantageously kni to the world, have laid their offer on this altar of Charity; not to me on that the very respectable protect of the scheme has employed on this casion the talents of her head, as wel the virtues of her heart."

Critical Review, October 1

Next week will be published the Cock-fig and Good Mother's Legacy.